small inland vessels, barges, launches, tugs, etc.

(c) M/s. Dilip Roy & Co. has not been awarded any repair work by the IWAI. The IWAI have intimated that with regard to repair work identified to be done during 1989 they had floated tender enquiries to 33 firms. 16 firms including the Public Sector Undertakings, M/s. Rajabagan Dockyard, CIWTC, M/s. Hoogly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd., M/s. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. and M/s. Shalimar Works Ltd. had responded. The tender forms for the works were issued to 15 out of 16 firms, since one firm was under lockout. However, only 3 offers were received on the due date of opening. M/s. Hoogly Dock & Port Engineers, Rajabagan Dockyard, CIWTC, Garden Reach Workshop, etc., did not send their offers by the due date. Based on the Tender Committee evaluation and recommendation, the works were awarded on the basis of lowest acceptable tender to two parties, namely (i) M/s. R. D. Enterprises, Calcutta for dry docking repairs of vessel, S L Survekshak and S L Ghogra and (ii) M/s. B. N. Bose & Co., Calcutta for Dry docking repairs of vessel ML Bahika.

Murders during GNLF movement

3199. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) what was the number of murders that took place during the G.N.L.F. movement in Darjeeling from the first quarter of 1986 to the date of Tripartite Agreement i.e. 22nd August, 1988;

(b) whether Government have provided any financial help (ex-gratia) to the families of those murdered. and

(c) if so, what is the amount thereof and the number of beneficiaries thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Centralising the D.E.T. in Bardhaman District in West Bengal

3200. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to centralise the D.E.T. in Bardhaman district in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the consequential inconveniences; and

(c) if so, whether Government would prefer to retain the present system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The D.E.T., Bardhaman will continue to function from Bardhaman. He will be responsible for all operational activities, including development, as at present. The Telecom. revenue and certain administrative functions, which form part of the Telecom. District Manager's Office would function from the TDM's office at Asansol.

(b) and (c) Only a section of the staff numbering about 30, would be affected. This movement, which should have been done few years back, has to be completed so that the Asansol Secondary Switching Area functions in the desired manner. This is in conformity with the All India Policy adopted by the department.

Problems of Prisoners

3201. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rules and regulations made

in 1959 to create ideal jails are not being followed by all the States except Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to undertake a fresh survey of various jails in the country with a view to study on the spot the problems of prisoners and to entertain their complaints, if any; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish the English version of jail book entitled "Rights of Prisoners" in various regional languages for being given to needy prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) 'Prison' is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take care of prisoners lodged in their jails and their demands.

National Highways and the Accidents

3202. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the number of fatal accidents on the National Highways has been increasing from year to year;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to make these Highways safe for travel;

(c) what is the number of cities/towns with a population of two lakhs and more, which are serviced by national highways;

(d) the number of such cities/towns provided with by-passes; and

(e) by when will the remaining cities/towns be provided with by-passes?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Roads Accidents take place due to multiple reasons including human factors, fitness of vehicles etc. Engineering improvements are being continuously made on the National Highways to make them safer. A number of enforcement measures provided in the new Motor Vehicles Act will also greatly help in reducing the road accidents.

(c) to (e) Information regarding number of cities/towns with population of two lakhs and more serviced by National Highways is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha along with the position of by-passes around them.

Rajasthani speaking people

3203. SHRI GAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rajasthani-speaking people in each census, under the head of "mother tongue";

(b) whether there has been a sharp decline in that number from 1961 onwards; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure that response from the people are solicited to enable them to record their option of mother-tongue freely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Four censuses were conducted in the country after Independence, in 1951, 1961, 1971 and 1981. The number of Rajasthani speaking people in the country has not been given under the heading "mother tongue" in the 1951 census report. This report, however, gives the total number of speakers of Rajasthani in the country as 645,001 under Indian languages (or dialects) with speakers numbering a lakh and over. According to the 1961 census report the number of persons with Rajasthani as mother tongue is